

COUNTRY Poland

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1. At the end of the school year 1949/50, there were about 15,000 students at the University and Polytechnic College in Wroclaw (Breslau). President (rector) of both schools is Prof. Dr. Stanislaw Kulczynski, very obedient and loyal to the Communists; his deputies are Seweryn Wystonek and Dionizy Smolenski.
2. Both institutions are under the thorough supervision of the newly created Ministry of Higher Schools and Science, of which the Socialist member of the United Workers Party politbureau, Adam Rapacki, is the chief. Professors, docents and assistants on the various faculties of the University are appointed by the Ministry of Education, now Higher Schools, according to their political beliefs. Their position at the University changes also in accordance with the degree of confidence they enjoy on the part of the Ministry. In some cases, docents are reduced in rank to the position of assistants; in others, professors are entirely removed from their chairs, e.g., Prof. Wincenty Stys. The teachers adopt various attitudes toward the new communist reality: some make a career by proclaiming the slogans of the people's democracy in their lectures and scientific treatises; others do not take part in the political life, devoting themselves entirely to studies; still others try to adjust themselves to the progress of events, changing their tactics from day to day. On the whole, however, there is only an insignificant number of convinced Communists among the professors, docents and auxiliary teaching staff.
3. Older students, in the third or fourth year of their studies, are almost without exception diehard "reactionaries", violently opposed to Communism and Soviet Russia. Until 1948, the students organizations such as "Fraternal Help" (Bratnia Pomoc), Academic Sport Association (AZS), Sport Club "Storm" (K.S. Burza), Caritas and others were controlled by members of the illegal "All-Polish Youth" (Mlodziez Wszechpolska), the students association of the outlawed National Democratic Party, who in their majority came to Wroclaw from Lwow. The situation underwent a change in 1948 after the merger of the students organizations; some of the student leaders were arrested, others had to adopt more cautious tactics. But anti-government leaflets were distributed even in the spring of 1950.
4. The non-Communist students attempt not to take part in the academic organizations and spend their free time in circles of friends. About thirty percent of the younger students, who were in the high schools members of the Communist ZMP (Union of Polish Youth), now play the leading role in the University's life. They receive all the stipends, free books, free meals, cheap lodgings, they fix the

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dates of their examinations, administer the "Fraternal Help" organization, they organize the pleasure trips and free vacations. The sons of workers, small farmers and working intelligentsia have priority in admission to universities, but they must prove their loyalty to Communism by a membership card of the High School ZMP and the Polish-Soviet Friendship Society. High School ZMP gives an opinion about every candidate for academic studies and the opinion is forwarded to the University authorities in a sealed envelope. Such a candidate must then pass an examination on a subject connected with his studies and on general knowledge concerning contemporary Poland and the world. The latter decides about his acceptance.

5. Dialectical and historical materialism, the development of Communism, the Bolshevik revolution, constitution of the USSR, the countries of people's democracy, peace congresses, who is Mao Tse-Tung, work contests (who is Pstrowski, who is Pelagia Narozena and what norms they accomplished) and similar questions are subjects for the examinations. They are not required from leading graduates of the high schools, some of whom are even granted the doubtful privilege of studying at Soviet universities. In 1949, 120 such graduates were sent to the USSR; in 1950, the number is to be increased to 500.
6. Knowledge of contemporary Poland and world affairs are subjects of studies on each of the University courses. The standards are, however, higher than during the preliminary examinations, and adjusted to the intellectual level of the students. Professors of this subject are as a rule men educated in the USSR. The ZAMP (Academic Union of Polish Youth - Communists) organizes work contests or rather study contests. The results are ridiculous because the norms and dates are seldom kept. But there is much noise and propaganda about these contests. The adjusting of science to political requirements is also appearing in Polish Universities. The subject of economics has either been removed or radically reformed in the Marxist-Leninist-Stalinist spirit. The same applies to biology, now based entirely on the theories of Michurin and Lysenko. One year ago the University studies had been reorganized and the period of studies reduced by one year. The period of medical studies was reduced from five years to four. Subjects from the second year of studies were transferred to the first year, which produced unfavorable results. From 1950, the Soviet system of awarding degrees during the studies is to be introduced on Polish Universities. The first degree, that of "inżynier", will be awarded after three years and will entitle the student to teach in high schools or to work in his profession. The second degree, after five years, is the scientific degree of "magister". Graduates have no choice of work, which is assigned to them. Better positions are assigned to graduates with an "eastern orientation".

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